

Reverend Smith - 1988

**THE UNION ASSOCIATION OF THE FREE-WILL
BAPTISTS, AT MT. VALLEY CHURCH,
SEPTEMBER 3-4-5, 1908.**

The Union Association of the Free Will Baptists met pursuant to adjournment Thursday evening, at 4 o'clock p. m. before the first Sunday in September, A. D. 1908, with Mt. Valley Church, Wright County, Mo.

Session called to order by singing led by Brother John M. Forest.

Opening prayer, led by Elder L. W. Hensley.

Introductory sermon delivered by Elder L. W. Hensley, text, "All things work together for good to those who love the Lord," followed by Elder J. T. Holcomb, after which the body proceeded to organize by electing Elder J. T. Holcomb, Moderator, and Elder A. J. Barnett, Assistant Moderator.

The following committees were appointed.

BUSINESS: Brothers L. W. Hensley, D. Long, T. B. Marler, A. Murr and Z. Williams.

CREDENTIALS: Brothers J. D. Jones, O. F. Dennis and L. M. Marler.

DIVINE SERVICES: Brothers J. M. Long, W. E. Long and J. W. Love.

OBITUARIES: Brothers D. Long and J. M. Forest.

AUDITING: Brother T. B. Marler.

On motion, Conference adjourned till Friday morning 8. a. m.

Pulpit filled at night by Brother Z. Williams followed by T. B. Marler.

FRIDAY MORNING, 8:00 a. m.

Song, led by Brother J. M. Forest.

8:30 Conference opened by Moderator reading 19th chapter of Psalms of David.

Prayer, led by Elder L. M. Marler.

Committee on Business reported as follows: We desire all Ministers, Licentiates and Deacons who are members of this Association to enroll their names with the Clerk of this Conference.

Enrollment showed the following present.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

A. J. Barnett, Norwood, Wright County, Missouri.
 D. H. Long, Mt. Grove, Wright County, Missouri.
 A. Murr, Fowler, Texas County, Missouri.
 L. M. Marler, Ava, Douglas County, Missouri.
 T. B. Marler, Ava, Douglas County, Missouri.
 Z. Williams, Cabool, Texas County, Missouri.
 L. W. Hensley, Grove Spring, Wright County, Missouri.
 J. W. Love, Mt. Grove, Wright County, Missouri.
 J. T. Holcomb, Marshfield, R. F. D. No. 1, Webster County, Mo.
 J. W. Housley, Norwood, R. F. D. No. 2, Wright County, Mo.

LICENTIATES.

John H. Claxton, Smittle, Wright County, Missouri.
 M. F. Clift.

ORDAINED DEACONS.

Wolf Creek, J. P. Deanis, Maasfield, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Olive No. 2, John H. Claxton, Smittle, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Olive No. 2, J. E. Claxton, Smittle, Wright County, Mo.
 Niangua, S. S. Walton, Niangua, Webster County, Mo.
 Mt. Valley, J. M. Long, Mt. Grove, Wright County, Mo.
 Union Chapel, Jas. Parker, Johns Mill, Christian County, Mo.
 Oak Grove, L. A. Butcher, Norwood, Wright County, Mo.
 Oak Grove, L. D. Fletcher, Norwood, Wright County, Mo.
 Pleasant Hill, Sam Young, Rembert, Wright County, Mo.
 Pleasant Hill, D. C. Claxton, Rembert, Wright County, Mo.
 Pleasant Hill, Reuben Young, Rembert, Wright County, Mo.
 Pleasant Hill, J. D. Jones, Rembert, Wright County, Mo.

CHURCHES, CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.

Oak Grove—Grace Preston, Norwood, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Valley—J. W. Love, Mt. Grove, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Zion No. 2—A. W. Belt, Grimes, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Zion No. 3—Frank Walker, Lamb, Wright County, Mo.
 Wolf Creek—Thos. Coday, Mansfield, Wright County, Mo.
 Black Oak Grove—Thos. Robertson, Ava, Douglas County, Mo.
 —W. T. Robertson, Alice, Douglas County, Mo.
 Little Vine No. 2—Mary Selvage, Cedar Gap, Wright County, Mo.
 Mt. Olive, No. 2—W. C. Pryor, Smittle, Wright County, Mo.
 Pleasant Hill—Wm. Draper, Hartville, Wright County, Mo.
 Macedonia—Mary Rader, Susanna Webster County, Mo.

DELEGATES.

Elihu Coday and J. L. Williams, Pleasant Hill; James Cunningham, Macedonia; Wm. Chandler, Black Oak Grove; H. M. Vestal, Mt. Zion No. 3; J. D. Lee, Happy Home; Harvey Smith and W. T. Love, Mt. Valley; J. P. Preston and Ambrose Grogan, Oak Grove No. 2; Thos. Morgan, Knob; James Letterman, Niangua; Wm. Murr and W. L. Robertson, Union Valley; R. McRoberts and J. A. Austin, Mt. Zion No. 2; S. H. Roberts and James Parker, Union Chapel; Wm. Shelton and F. M. Moreland, Wolf Creek; Isaac Jones and J. M. Forest, Mt. Olive No. 2.

A resolution was passed asking the Clerk to read such letters as had been passed to him from the different congregations and letters were read from the following: Pleasant Hill, Clever Creek, Union, Wolf Creek, Oak Grove, Niangua, Mt. Olive No. 2, Hargus Chapel, Mt. Valley, Black Oak, Mt. Zion No. 2, Mt. Zion No. 3, Happy Home, Mt. Haven and Girdue. The two last mentioned being new Churches.

11:00 a. m. Services conducted by Elder A. J. Barnett using James 2:8 as a text.

On motion, Conference adjourned till 2 p. m

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

Resolution passed inviting visiting Brothers to seat in Council.

Resolution passed calling for letters from newly organized churches. Letters were presented and delegates seated and right hand

of fellowship extended to them. Brothers L. W. Hensley, T. B. Marler and D. H. Long were appointed as a committee to attend to the business contained in the letters.

Committee examined Brother John H. Claxton as to qualification for preaching the Gospel and found him fully qualified and granted license for one year.

Elders D. A. Long, L. M. Varler and O. F. Dennis were appointed as a committee to ordain Brother Hously.

The question, "What method can we adopt to advance the cause of Christ in the Union Association?" was fully discussed by the Conference, the discussion being led by Elder J. M. Love.

On motion, Conference adjourned till 8 a. m. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

8:00 a. m. Conference called together by singing led by Elder J. T. Holcomb. Lesson read by the Moderator. Prayer led by Brother Sam'l Young.

Roll Call.

Elders J. T. Holcomb, L. W. Hensley and D. H. Long were appointed as a committee to examine Brother Clift as to his qualification to preach. Committee reported that he was fully qualified, and Brother Clift was licensed for one year.

Committee on Business asked for the discussion of the question, "What constitutes a legal Presbyter to organize a new church?"

Elder T. B. Marler led the discussion, and after short talks by several Ministers it was decided that it took three to constitute a Presbyter, and that it must be composed of two ordained ministers and one ordained Deacon, or three ordained Ministers.

Question. "Shall this Association hold and have Quarterly Meeting?" Discussion led by Elder A. Murr. On motion, Elders L. W. Hensley, T. B. Marler, and L. W. Love were appointed as a committee to conduct quarterly meetings and Pleasant Hill, Wright County, Mo., was chosen as the first place for holding the Preachers' and Deacons' Conference; date, Thursday evening, four o'clock before the fifth Sunday in November 1908. Second Quarterly Conference at Rock Spring on the next fifth Sunday and the third Conference at Mt. Olive on the next fifth Sunday, and the fourth Conference at Clever Creek on the last fifth

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

...but I think that all

The question of whether or not this Association should keep an

By Resolution, all Deacons and Laymembers were asked to serve as

By Resolution the Clerk was instructed to have 500 copies of the minutes of the Association printed.

J. F. McCall, Evangelist.

Elder J. T. Holcomb submitted the following report: Pastored two churches, held one protracted meeting, witnessed seven conversions, traveled 252 miles, recieved thirty-six dollars and sixty cents salary.

Elder E. M. Marler reported: Pastored two churches, preached sixty-five sermons and twenty-five exhortations, received fifteen into the church, baptized seven, helped organize one church, helped ordain three Deacons, witnessed twenty-seven professions, preached three funerals.

traveled seven hundred and twenty-five miles, received twenty-four dollars and seventy-five cents salary.

Elder F. O. Dennis reported: Pastored one church, organized one church, received twenty dollars salary.

Elder D. H. Long reported: Pastored one church, preached one funeral, received two dollars.

Elder J. M. Love reported: Preached twelve sermons and two funerals, baptized two, received five into the church, witnessed five professions, helped ordain five Deacons, traveled eighty eight miles.

On motion, an opportunity was extended to any one wishing to join the Association, and Brother Ed Delcoe came forward.

On motion, Brother Delcoe was received and credentials given him by proper authority.

On motion, Brother L. W. Hensley was granted a letter from the Association.

On motion, all committees were released.

On motion, Brother T. B. Marler was selected to return the heartfelt thanks to the brothers, sisters and friends of Mt. Valley Church for their hospitality and good treatment during our stay with them.

Committee on Obituaries submitted the following report: "Whereas the dark winged messenger of death has visited our Church and homes since we last met in our Association, and has taken away our Brethren, Elder J. W. Frederick, Brother J. F. Fleming and Brother A. F. Pool and Sister Allie Long, Sister Hattie Hughes, Sister Tempie Smith and Sister Mary Kempton, all of whom were held in high esteem amongst us; we feel assured that they have joined the Association of angels, and their works will follow them."

On motion, the Conference closed to meet again on Thursday evening at four o'clock p. m., before the first Sunday in September, 1902, with Wolf Creek Church, Wright County, Mo.

WM. DRAPER, Clerk,

JOHN JONES, Assistant.

JOHN M. FOREST, Assistant.

J. T. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

A. J. Barnett, Assistant.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	Received by Experience and Baptism	By Letter	By Recommendation	Died	Excluded	Membership	Dismissed By Letter	Contributions	Nonresident Members	Resident Members
Mt. Zion No. 3	8		3	1	3	91	2	.60	6	
Happy Home	10	2						.75		35
Mt. Zion No. 2	13				8			\$1.00	19	54
Black Oak						31			10	21
Niangua						49		.50	22	27
Mt. Valley	7			3				.70	17	33
Pleasant Hill				1		126		\$1.00	15	111
Girdue, newly constituted church						7				
Union Chapel No. 2	4				1			.50	1	25
Oak Grove						27		\$1.00		
Hargus Chapel			3			15			2	
Mt. Olive No. 2							2	.75	2	49
Wolf Creek	3						60	.80		
Clever Creek Union	5		1					.90		
Mt Haven Church	6	2				21		\$1.00		29
Macedonia Verbal Report						38		.45	7	

Verbal report by following Churches: Little vine No. 2, Pleasant Ridge, Union Valley.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, Whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His Divine Nature truly God; in his human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT,** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all that come to years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings death and resurrection, effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are, (1) repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (2) faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord, with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. (3) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **PERSEVERANCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; of universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The Divine Law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communication with God.

15. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment. Then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."